

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SSC-01 CPR-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 SCCT-01 /057 W

----- 089529

O 251415Z MAR 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0697

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SA, US

SUBJ: DEATH OF KING FAISAL

1. RIYADH RADIO HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT SENIOR MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY HAVE MET AND CHOSEN CROWN PRINCE KHALID AS KING AND THAT REMAINDER OF ROYAL FAMILY HAVE ALREADY APPROVED. PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE ELECTION, TO INCLUDE THE NOTABLES AND ULEMA, TO TAKE PLACE 10:00 A.M. MARCH 26. KING KHALID HAS APPOINTED PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AS CROWN PRINCE.

2. MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR KING FAISAL HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR APPROXIMATELY 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME WEDNESDAY, AT THE GREAT MOSQUE IN RIYADH WITH THE FUNERAL TO FOLLOW KORANIC READINGS.

3. RADIO REPORTS MINIMUM DETAILS ON ASSASSINATION WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT SHORTLY BEFORE NOON BY PRINCE FAYSAL BIN MUSAIID BIN ABD AL-AZIZ (NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE SON OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE), A NEPHEW OF THE KING WITH A KNOWN MENTALLY UNSTABLE PERSONALITY. FAYSAL
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APPROACHED HIS UNCLE TO SALUTE HIM DURING USUAL MORNING

MAJLIS AND INSTEAD SHOT HIM SEVERAL TIMES. KING WAS TAKEN TO
CENTRAL HOSPITAL BUT WAS PROBABLY KILLED IMMEDIATELY.
AMBASSADOR AND SENATOR MCGOVERN ARE IN RIYADH AND DEPUTY
CHIEF OF MISSION HAS BEEN CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR
MEETING STILL UNDER WAY AS OF 1600 LOCAL (1300 GMT).
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE DHAHRAN
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